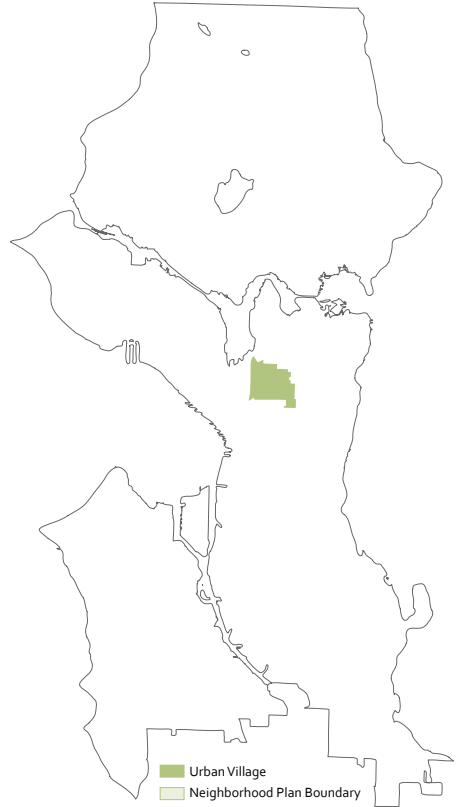


CAPITOL HILL

Who did we hear from?

The responses to the online questionnaire and the neighborhood discussion were similar in substance, however, the number of online respondents was far greater. There were 273 online respondents compared to 15-20 neighborhood discussion participants. In both cases, many respondents were newer residents of the neighborhood, having lived there for less than 5 years.



What did we hear?

- Newer, mixed-use development represents positive progress to many, but it also engenders a deep anxiety about change.
- Respondents are eager for rail transit service to begin, but are apprehensive about unknowns regarding the streetcar route and the prospect of further development.
- Respondents appreciated the lively street life spurred on by new development, however they lamented the loss of notable neighborhood businesses.
- Many feel that the relatively consistent aesthetic qualities of new development detract from the “eclectic” character of the neighborhood.
- Cal Anderson Park and the new library are widely seen as positive additions to the neighborhood.
- Many respondents related growth in the Pike/Pine corridor to change on Capitol Hill.
- Only a few respondents commented on the impact of Seattle Central Community College.

For more information about the Neighborhood Status Check, including the complete summary of the neighborhood discussion and the transcript of the online responses, please see the Planning Commission’s [report](#).

What are the similarities between the in-person and online responses?

General development and physical neighborhood infrastructure, such as buildings, parks, streetscapes, transportation, and parking were recurring themes in the questionnaire and open house responses. Most agreed that Cal Anderson Park and the new library are strong successes. However, many also noted that new development has altered the character of the area, made housing and business lease rates less affordable, and reduced the number of community spaces. Only a few people commented on the impact of Seattle Central Community College.



What are the differences between the responses?

Security, loitering, and other safety concerns are prevalent in the online questionnaire; very few people mentioned these issues at the neighborhood discussion. In general, the in-person participants were concerned primarily with the physical character and the intensity of new development; while the online respondents were concerned with the programmatic issues of gentrification and diversity that new development has been perceived to create.

In their own words...

How has your neighborhood changed?

Light rail going in on Broadway

It feels more vibrant... like more and more people are out on the streets participating in the life of this neighborhood.

I have seen low-income community members (residential & small businesses) displaced due to the rising cost of living on Capitol Hill. I have seen houses and storefronts sold and demolished, to become vacant lots and unoccupied homes & storefronts. I have seen condominiums built throughout the neighborhood that current and former residents of Capitol Hill cannot afford. I see these same condominium buildings with vacant units for months and years. These changes are not good for the vitality and sustainability of Capitol Hill.

My neighborhood (North Capitol Hill) has not changed very much. Broadway is going through some changes as large multi family units are being built. The biggest difference in the past couple of years is the change in the Pike/Pine corridor--it has become much more of a destination than Broadway.